

REMARKS

The above election along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Official Action dated November 29, 2004. The Examiner is respectfully requested to review the substance of Species I (first embodiment: claims 1-3 and 6) depicted in Figs. 1-5, and to indicate the allowability of the claims.

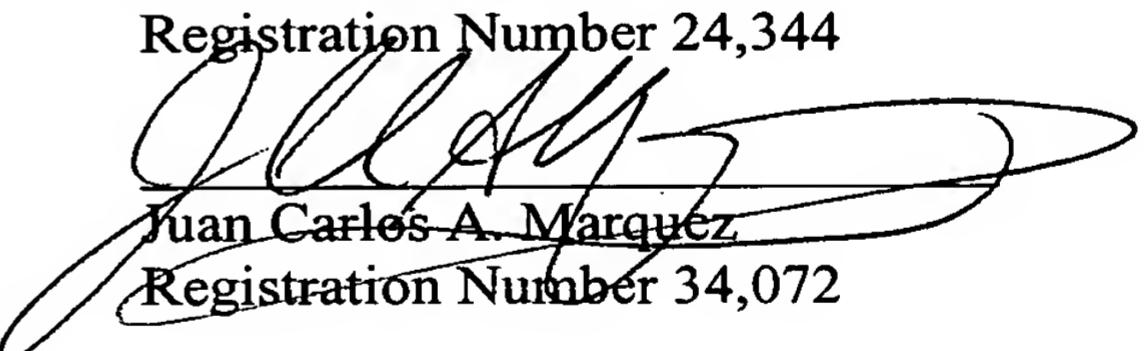
Species I (first embodiment: claims 1-3 and 6) depicted in Figs. 1-5, have been provisionally elected to continue prosecution in this application, while other claims independently reciting other species are withdrawn from further prosecution without prejudice. Applicants respectfully contend that claims 1 and 6 are generic claims as depicted in Figs. 1-23, and request the Examiner reconsider his categorization of the claims.

Applicants hereby reserve the right to file a divisional application on any or all of the non-elected species or claims. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Substantive consideration of the generic claim and elected species claims is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley P. Fisher
Registration Number 24,344


Juan Carlos A. Marquez
Registration Number 34,072

REED SMITH LLP
3110 Fairview Park Drive
Suite 1400
Falls Church, Virginia 22042
(703) 641-4200

December 28, 2004

SPF/JCM/JT